

**REVISING
Washington's
State Wildlife Action Plan**

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Wildlife Program**

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Agenda

1. A brief overview
2. Highlight key elements
3. Engaging partners and stakeholders

What is the State Wildlife Action Plan?

- Congress created program in 2001
- State must have a State Wildlife Action Plan to get \$
- SWAPs were 1st approved in 2005
- SWAPs requires updating every 10 years
- The SWAP does not trigger SEPA
 - Why? Strategic plan and subsequent use of SWG funds for projects requires federal approval



Who Gets the \$?

- WDFW receives approx. \$1 million/year
- Habitat, Fish, Wildlife receive share
- 65:35 Match with state funds (usually PLP)
- Combined PLP/SWG make up the primary funding mix for Wildlife Diversity Division



Why invest in it?

- REQUIRED for State Wildlife Grant funding
 - including annual allocations and competitive grants
- Influential in securing other funding
- Opportunity to advance conservation priorities with conservation partners
- ★ Coordinate conservation priorities internally across programs (Wildlife, Fish, Habitat)
- ★ Facilitate partnership opportunities – regionally, and across state borders



Bottom Line

Ensure that this product meets our USFWS requirements *and* is relevant to, and adds value to, the work of the agency



What are the *Eight Essential Elements?* *What do we need to do?*

- Element 1* Identify distribution, abundance and status of **species of greatest conservation need** (SGCN).
- Element 2* **Identify extent and condition of key habitats** and community types essential to the conservation of SGCN.
- Element 3* Identify **problems and threats** that affect SGCN and their habitats.
- Element 4* **Determine and prioritize actions** to conserve SGCN and their habitats.
- Element 5* **Provide for periodic monitoring** of SGCN and their habitats,
- Element 6* Provide for **Review and Revision.**
- Element 7* **Partnerships** -- Coordinate the development and implementation with appropriate federal, state, local agencies and tribes.
- Element 8* Provide for necessary **public involvement** in the revision, and implementation of the SWAP.

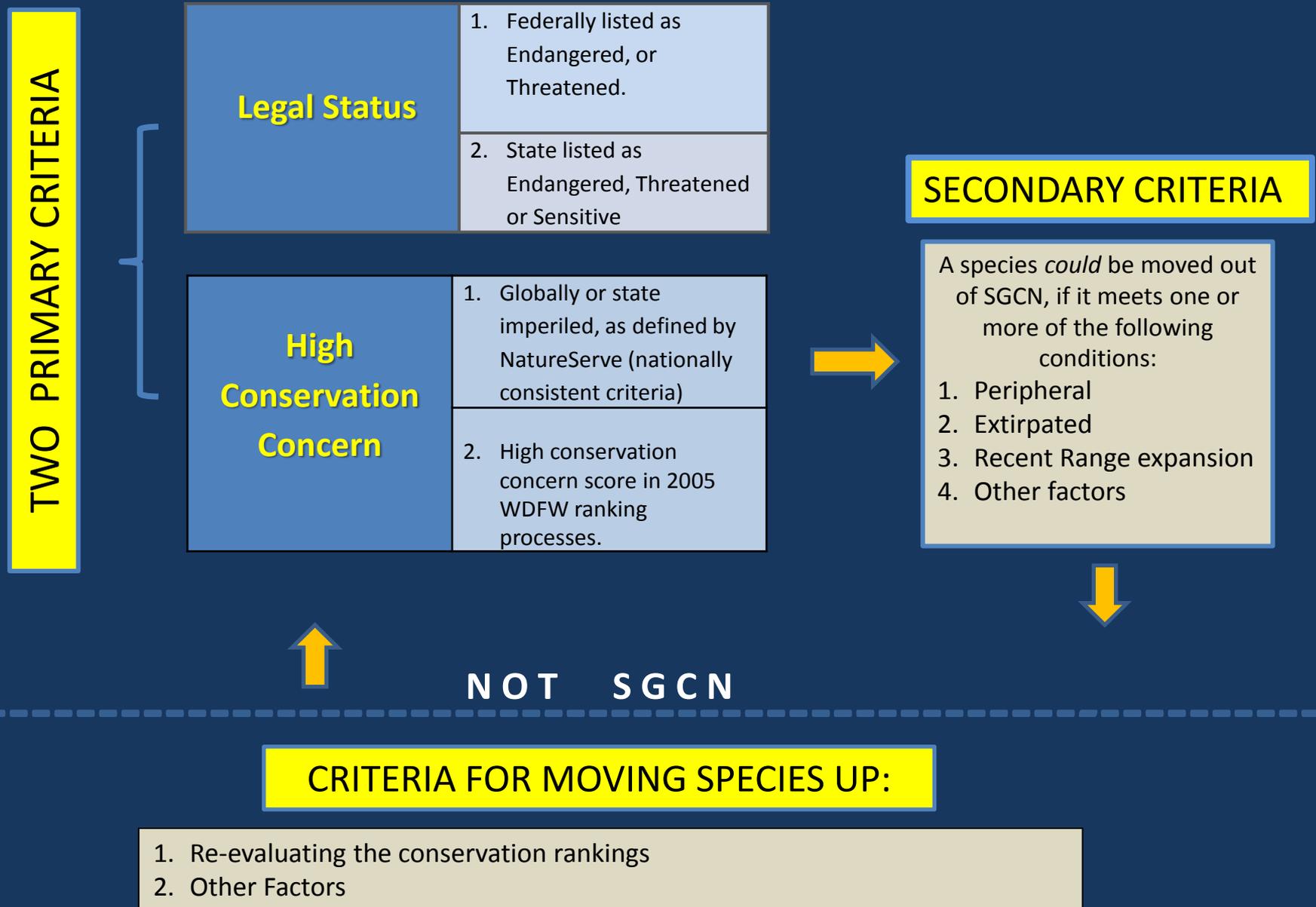
Species Of Greatest Conservation Need

Intended to include both species which already have legal conservation status, *and also* those which may be in rapid decline.

("keep common species common").



Revising Species of Greatest of Conservation Need



Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- Revisions to the 2005 SGCN list are still being reviewed and vetted by species experts.

2005 SGCN	
invertebrates	42
fish	33
amphibians	11
reptiles	8
birds	58
mammals	31
Grand Total	183

Legal Status

- Federal Endangered Species Act
 - Candidate, Threatened, or Endangered
- State Listing
 - WAC 232-12-011 (Protected, Sensitive, Threatened)
 - WAC 232-12-014 (Endangered)
 - See 2012 Status Reports

Success! Proposed to be dropped from 2005 list

invertebrates

Bog idol leaf beetle
Native mussel
Oregon floater (bivalve)
Western floater (bivalve)
Shepard's parnassian
Subarctic darner
Boreal whiteface

fish

Black rockfish (Puget Sound)

reptiles

Pacific gopher snake (W. WA only)
Western yellow-bellied racer (W.WA only)

mammals

Elk (Nooksack herd, mixed)
Merriam's shrew
Pacific harbor porpoise
Pallid Townsend's big-eared bat

birds

Acorn woodpecker
Ancient murrelet
Arctic tern
Black oystercatcher
Black-backed oodpecker
Cassin's auklet
Common murre
Great blue heron
Greater scaup
Lesser scaup
Northern goshawk
Northern pintail
Pileated woodpecker
Prairie falcon
Trumpeter swan
Tule greater white-fronted goose
Vaux's swift

Climate Watch List

Species highly sensitive to climate change

American pika	Loss/fragmentation of alpine habitat
Northern bog lemming	Depends on cold weather peatlands – very vulnerable to warming climate
White-tailed ptarmigan	Increasing fragmentation and loss of genetic diversity from declines in alpine habitat.
Black oystercatcher	Concerns about effects of sea level rise on habitat
Columbia torrent salamander	Depends year-round moist environments, seeps and springs primarily in Willapa hills
Bull trout	Low temperature threshold; vulnerable to warming stream temperatures

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

For each SGCN we will:

- describe status and distribution
- define the extent and condition of key habitats
- identify threats
- identify conservation actions



Species Fact Sheet Example

WASHINGTON GROUND SQUIRREL (*Spermophilus washingtoni*)

PAGE ONE

Federal ESA	State Listed	PHS	Population size/trend in WA
Candidate	Candidate	Yes	Low/Declining

Conservation Status and Concern

This species is strongly associated with shrub-steppe in eastern Washington and is threatened by a number of factors, especially habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation.

Biology and Life History

Found in small to large colonies, hibernates up to 8 months per year. They have a relatively broad diet of mainly grasses, forbs, and seeds, with at least 100 species of food plants. Individuals live alone or in colonies.

Habitat Needs

Washington ground squirrels inhabit a number of habitat subtypes within shrub-steppe and grassland, including human-modified habitats such as lawns, edges of crop fields, and highway rights-of-way. This ground squirrel occupies shrub-steppe habitat of the Columbia Basin ecosystem (USFWS 2004).

Distribution and Abundance

Endemic to southeastern Washington and north-central Oregon. Population size unknown but declining. The range includes the Columbia Plateau in eastern Washington east of the Columbia River.

Washington Ground Squirrel – Threats and Actions

PAGE TWO

General Issues	Specific Threats	Conservation Strategies	Specific Actions
Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation of habitat may isolate remaining populations	Habitat protection	Use land acquisitions, conservation easements, and landowner agreements to increase connectivity.
Invasive plant species	Cheatgrass invasion (alteration of fire regime)	Habitat restoration	Restore and manage degraded habitat at colonies
illegal harvest	Illegal target shooting continues despite legal protection	Enforcement	Enforce existing protective regulations.
Lack of information	Causes of recent declines uncertain; range not well known	Research and data collection	Research/surveys to detect colony occurrence and numbers; test and monitor for disease.

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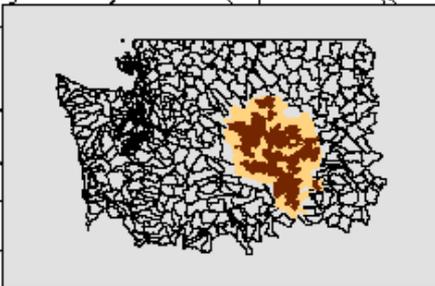
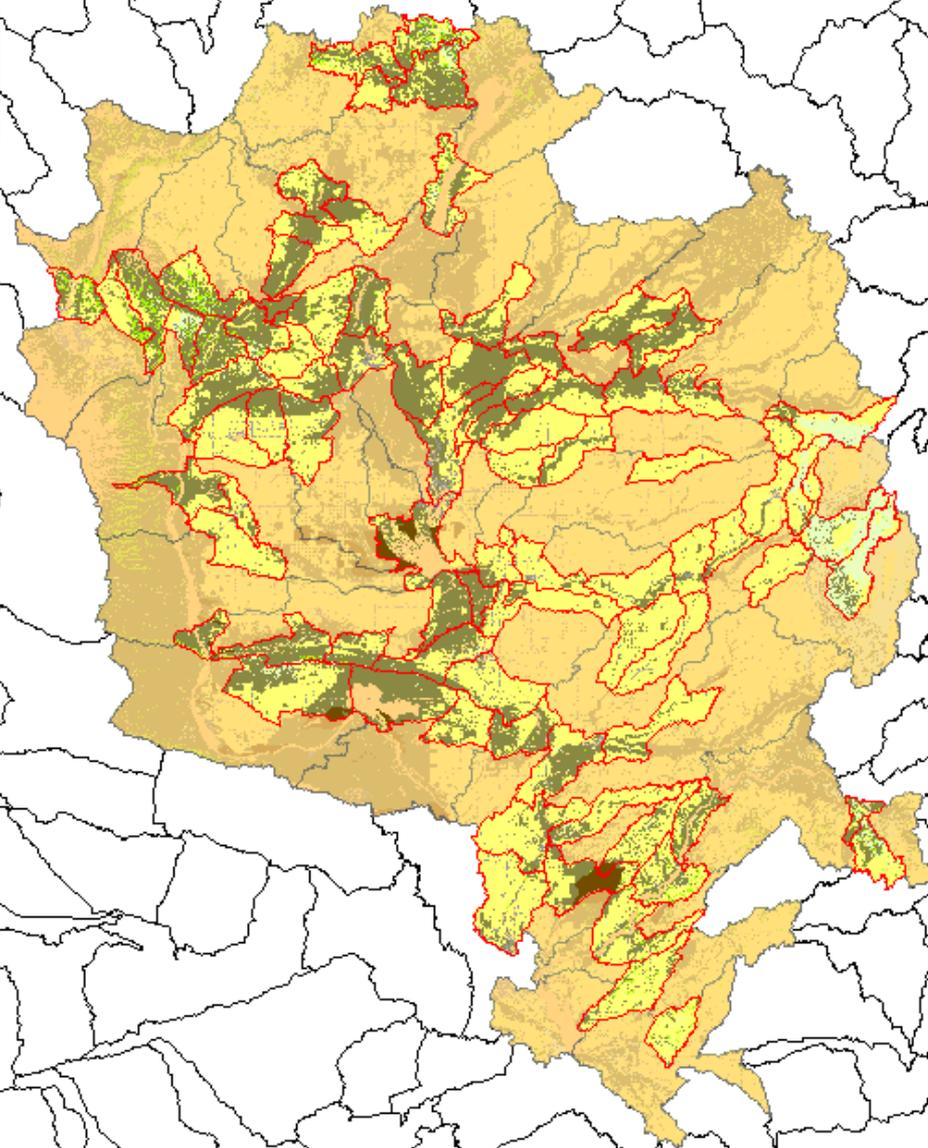
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CLIMATE CHANGE SENSITIVITY	This species is considered moderately vulnerable to climate change because of its close ties to shrub-steppe habitat and the projected increases in summer drought, invasive species and increased frequency and severity of wildlife as a result of climate change				

POTENTIAL HABITAT AND RANGE MAPS

Species Range/Habitat Distribution

Washington Ground Squirrel

- Cool Semi-Desert Cliff, Scree & Rock Vegetation
- Cool Semi-Desert Scrub & Grassland
- Developed & Urban
- Herbaceous Agricultural Vegetation
- Introduced & Semi Natural Vegetation
- Temperate Grassland, Meadow & Shrubland
- Wa_ground_squirrel_huc12
- HUC 10 Range



WASHINGTON GROUND SQUIRREL

HABITATS OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED



How will the SWAP address Habitats?

1. Select 10-15 “Priority” Habitat types

- A. Describe distribution and abundance
- B. Identify top priority threats and conservation actions needed
- C. Identify lead roles for WDFW and partners

2. Identify selected “Priority Landscapes” – within or containing these habitat types

- *Actual places on the ground*, important for conservation action

3. Identify landscape values at the District level

- Provide guidance to biologists to prioritize activities

Outreach and Engagement

GOAL

Develop *meaningful* and *cost-effective* outreach activities.

TO DATE

- Website updated -- wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/cwcs
- Wildlife Diversity Advisory Council
- Broadcast email ~200 addressees

PLANNED

- JANUARY: Launch formal outreach with informational presentation to Fish and Wildlife Commission.
- FEBRUARY: Workshops/webinars to introduce draft “products”
- ★ MARCH: Targeted briefings to key organizations
- JUNE: Draft document available for public

Sectors included in Outreach

- Tribes
- Conservation organizations
- Universities and academia
- Federal agencies (including defense)
- State agencies
- Local agencies
- Working lands organizations (agriculture, forestry, ranching)
- Zoos, aquariums, other research entities
- Recreation groups (hunters, anglers)

Questions?



Notes slide ; not for display. Couldn't insert into a Notes page.

Program	FFY14		Comment/Explanation	How to be Obligated
	Amount	Percentage		
Wildlife	\$702,606	69.40	Diversity = \$612,606 Science = \$90,000	Diversity = amend into #13-1609 Science = J. Pierce to determine
Fish	\$201,468	19.90		Per Fish Program determination
Habitat	\$86,054	8.50	Total allocation = \$108,327 to include Director's Office share	Per Habitat Program determination
Director's Office	\$22,273	2.20	Consolidated into Habitat Program allocation	Per Habitat Program
Total	\$1,012,400	1.00		